

Amendment to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] Most effective in reducing the bacteria after one, four and 24 hours were (in descending order) Example 10, Example 9 and Example 8. After 24 hours, the rate of reduction was greater than 99.9 %. Since the dispersion containing 0.246% brown silver (Example 8) was among the most effective ~~as-at~~ reducing bacteria, the presence of what was believed to be phenolic resin did not impair the effectiveness of the antimicrobial behavior of the silver nanoparticles in the dispersions tested. Since the dispersions containing silver nanoparticles (without phenolic resin contamination) (Examples 10 and 9) more effectively reduced bacteria than the dispersions containing brown silver (Examples 8 and 7), the antimicrobial effect was believed to be due to the presence of silver nanoparticles and not as a result of the phenolic resin contamination. There was no significant ~~different~~ difference in the antimicrobial effect of Example 7 and blank wax at any of the sampling times (one hour, four hours or 24 hours).

~~[Add additional examples here]~~